

California High School Exit Examination

English Language Arts Teacher Guide 2002

Standards and Assessment Division
California Department of Education



California High School Exit Examination

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Introduction

The California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) Teacher Guides for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics are designed to provide comprehensive and accessible information to assist teachers in preparing their students for the CAHSEE. This guide contains six sections, and teachers are encouraged to reproduce individual sections or all of the guide for classroom use. Districts and school personnel also are encouraged to use this material in their staff development activities.

- **Section 1**, “About the CAHSEE,” provides an overview of the purpose and content of the CAHSEE. This section also includes a set of checklists teachers may use when writing test questions for classroom use, information about security for the CAHSEE, and a glossary of terms used in this guide.
- **Section 2**, “CAHSEE Questions and Answers for Teachers,” provides answers to frequently asked questions about the administration and scoring of the CAHSEE.
- **Section 3**, “Assessing the CAHSEE Reading Standards,” is designed to give detailed information about how the California content standards for reading are tested on the CAHSEE. The reading standards are divided into three strands:
 - Word Analysis
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Literary Response and AnalysisFor each of these strands, Section 3 provides a summary of the essential knowledge and skills covered in the strand, followed by a detailed discussion of each content standard within the strand. This discussion includes a description of the ways the standard may be tested and, for most standards, a sample released test question.
- **Section 4**, “Assessing the CAHSEE Writing Standards,” is designed to give detailed information about how the California content standards for writing are tested on the CAHSEE. The writing standards are divided into three strands:
 - Writing Strategies
 - Writing Conventions
 - Writing ApplicationsAs in Section 3, this section first provides summary of the essential knowledge and skills covered in each strand, followed by a detailed description of each content standard and its components. Information about how the standard may be tested and descriptions of CAHSEE released test questions are also included.
- **Section 5**, “Thinking About the ELA Strands in the Classroom,” gives practical descriptions of each reading and writing strand and is designed to help teachers focus on the standards in everyday classroom instruction.

- **Section 6**, “Process for Using the CAHSEE to Increase Student Achievement,” details suggested processes for using the California content standards and the released test questions to help implement standards-based instruction in the classroom.

The **appendixes** to the Teacher Guide provide the following materials for easy reference:

- Appendix A: The CAHSEE Scoring Guides for the writing tasks
- Appendix B: The CAHSEE ELA blueprint (number of test questions for each content standard)
- Appendix C: The passages associated with the sample items discussed in this guide
- Appendix D: Sample worksheets that accompany the suggested seven-step process for using the CAHSEE to increase student achievement
- Appendix E: A matrix of the topics in the California Content Standards for reading, grades 3 through 9/10